

ALMOST AT THE ZERO MARK.

HEAVY ICE IN THE SOUND AND LOWER BAY—

It was a bitterly cold day yesterday, the thermometer evincing a strong desire to record zero weather. Early in the morning, just about daybreak the mercury was only a fraction above zero in the thermometer of the Weather Bureau. It gradually climbed up to 13 degrees about 2 o'clock, and could not get any higher. The cool

ple who came in from the suburbs in the morning to business reported much colder weather in the rural districts.

The ice in the rivers and bays did not give much trouble. It was soft and springy, and there was of it, and steam vessels forced their way through it with only a little delay. From Governor's Island to the city there was a clear space of open water, and the Staten Island ferries were not delayed in their trips except on the Whitehall slip. There the ice from the East and North rivers collected and made progress slow. All the ferries ran on their schedule time however. The ice in the Sound gave considerable trouble. From City Island it was reported that six tug boats and schooners were stuck fast in the ice there. The tug A. E. Burnside, which had been imprisoned in the ice at City Island since Saturday, got free yesterday, and came down to New-York. The schooner Druid, at anchor in City Island Harbor, was cut free by a backed harbor and, at last afternoon was leaking badly. It was decided to carry her cargo ashore. The tug which rescued the imprisoned vessel

at City Island that the crews visited each other by walking over the ice. The tug Hercules was reported stuck in the ice near the Stepping Stones.

There was some delay on the elevated road yesterday owing to the cold. Colonel Hain said: "The delays have been less often to take it out more coal and have to stop. We have to use coal. Besides, the engines do not make steam as well in exceedingly cold weather. All railroad gear runs on delays more or less in cold weather. We have fewer than other roads."

The cold wave yesterday covered all the country eastward of Minnesota and extended as far south as Florida. Tennessee, Virginia and other sections where one does not look for intensely cold weather, were severely affected by the cold wave. It was the coldest "snap" known in the South for some years, and it was also pretty cold here. The mercury in the Fahrenheit thermometer registered a temperature of 10 degrees above zero at 3 o'clock in the morning. Three hours later it was down to 2 degrees above. At 9 o'clock it had only crawled up to 3 degrees, and at noon to 5.

The ice stood at 13 degrees, at 6 o'clock it was down to 8 degrees, at 3 degrees, and at 9 o'clock it was down to 5 degrees. The prospects for to-day are that it will be warmer, and a little warmer weather will not be unwelcome to the citizens of New-York.

The air was bracing yesterday, and although the weather was not unhealthily, the ice which has been hanging around the water is doing a fearful work, and of great discomfort to the pilots. It carries away buoys in channels, and it renders the handling of big ships a matter of difficulty. One or two pilot boats are frozen fast in the harbor, and some that are outside are reluctant to try and sail in while the ice is so thick like this. The ice is very much thicker in the Lower Bay. No general thaw is to be expected for some time, but it is expected that the Hudson for some time, but it is expected that the Hudson will be open to pour great quantities of ice down into the bays.

FRUIT MEN SUFFER HEAVY LOSS.

FIVE MEDITERRANEAN STEAMERS UNABLE TO DISCHARGE THEIR CARGOES.

The prolonged cold weather is playing havoc with the fruit trade in this city, and every day that the temperature lingers below the freezing point adds to the misery of the importers of oranges and lemons and swells the total of their losses. There are at the present time five steamers from the Mediterranean lying at their piers waiting to unload. Three of them, the Hoxham, has been in port two weeks, and only part of that part frozen on.

plere. The Hexham carried 12,000 boxes of lemons and 15,000 boxes of oranges. Then there are the *Rosario* and *Mathews*, with 5,000 boxes of lemons and 5,000 boxes of oranges; the *Letimbro* with 10,000 boxes of lemons and 10,000 boxes of oranges; the *San Juan* with 10,000 boxes of lemons and 14,500 boxes of oranges; and the *British Prince* with 9,000 boxes of lemons and 7,000 boxes of oranges, all waiting for a chance to unload. In all there are 47,000 boxes of lemons valued at \$100,000 and 31,000 boxes of oranges worth \$75,000 tied up at the wharves. And just now the Mediterranean steamer creeps through the Narrows almost daily.

"Nor does this stopping of our business," said the agent yesterday, "tell all the story. The figures given do not include the charges for wharfage and demurrage we have to pay, which will be fully \$25,000."

"The Mediterranean fruit trade is completely paralyzed," said another importer, "for we cannot send back any more to the shippers. Finally, who cannot in consequence, let the fruit brought in by them. As a result, there is the Florida orange trade paralyzed by this constant accumulation of foreign fruit in the harbor, likely to be dumped on the market any day."

Retail fruit dealers are likewise complaining of the loss of trade through inability to display their fruit in front of their stores because of the foul and hot weather. The outcome is that business has practically ceased. The only way the fruit dealers for shipping fruit are trapped in—fast-posted brown paper having been found unavailing this time. The intense cold penetrates the thickest paper covering. Nor do the two heated pipes, one in each of the two sides of the crates, help the importers to unload their cargoes, for the moment the hatches of the vessels are

TAMMANY INDIFFERENCE DEFENDED.

THOUSANDS DISAPPOINTED BECAUSE THE ICE IN THE PARKS WAS NOT CLEARED SUNDAY SKATING UNDER DIFFICULTIES YESTERDAY.

Much indignation has been expressed on account of the failure of the park management to have Central Park lakes in condition for skating on Sunday. Nature has provided plenty of thick ice at bracing weather, but the Park Department, the excuse for whose existence is that it furnishes opportunities for innocent recreation and amusement for the masses of the people, utterly failed to do its part and have the lakes and ponds prepared for the skaters. In consequence of this 25,000 or 30,000 people who might have had a good afternoon's sport returned disappointed and discontented at the Tammany authorities whose neglect or want of foresight filled the crowd with vented emotions.

The excuse given for keeping the thousands of skaters from the big lake was that it was covered with snow, and that the park officials had not enough laborers to do the work of sweeping it off and also clean off the walks and open up the paths of the park. The fact was, however, that by noon at least one-quarter of the large lake had been cleared of snow and it were ready for the sport, yet the plebeian representatives of the Tammany refused to allow the skaters to go upon the ice. Naturally a crowd gathered in the Grand Central Hall for their

The only excuse given at the Park Department yesterday for the neglect and inefficiency of its subordinates on Sunday was that superintendent Parkes had not men enough at his disposal to clear the lakes of snow and attend to the other necessary work of the parks at the same time. Why the people were not allowed to see that part of the big lake which was clear of snow during the latter half of the day nobody knew. The small lake at Fifty-ninth-st., was said, was clear and open to skaters all day, but its capacity is limited, and it is usually reserved for the use of women and children.

It is only once in a long time that the Central Park lakes all have ice of a sufficient thickness to permit of the general and health-giving amusement